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**LEIGHTON BUZZARD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



ANNUAL REPORT

of

The Medical Officer of Health

and

The Public Health Inspector

for the Year

1961

A. R. DARLOW, T.D., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.T.M. & H.,
Medical Officer of Health

M. S. LESLIE, M.R.S.H., Cert.R.S.A. (Scot.),
Public Health Inspector

To the Chairman and Members of the Leighton Buzzard Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Leighton Buzzard Urban District for the year 1961. It is presented in the form followed in previous years, being not only a report but a reference book for the health services.

The vital statistics are satisfactory, and compare well with the rest of Bedfordshire and the country. The total figures are small however and must be interpreted with caution.

Progress in the provision of housing and in housing improvements has been fairly good. Unfortunately, the planned improvements in drainage and sewerage are making slow progress.

I am grateful to you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Council, and especially to the members of the Health Committee, for their co-operation and interest they have shown in our work during the past year. I am particularly grateful to Mr. Leslie who is responsible for most of the work recorded in this report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. R. DARLOW,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1962.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1961

1.—OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

A. R. Darlow, T.D., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.T.M. & H.

Public Health Inspector, Petroleum and Meat Inspector:

M. S. Leslie, M.R.S.H., Cert R.S.A. (Scot.).

2.—GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRICT

		1941	1951	1961
Area in Acres	... ... ... ... ...	2487	2487	2487
Registrar General's estimate of resident population		7748	9083	11,740
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Book	... ... ... ... ...	2196	2746	3593
Rateable Value at end of December, 1960	... ...	£40,810	£49,716	£145,384
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	... ... ...	£161	£186	£577

3.—SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Urban District is a fairly compact one of 2,487 acres, from which the roads radiate in three main directions to a large farming area. The town is a blend of a typical English market town and a modern Urban District. It lies for the main part between the 200ft. and 300ft. contour lines and is bounded on the west side by the River Ouse which serves both as District and County boundary. In addition to the cattle market there is also a weekly chartered market held on Tuesdays and Saturdays, which occupies a considerable part of the High Street. This very wide street, a feature of the town, is the main business and shopping centre and contains all the Banks and professional offices.

During the last 16 years, large scale Local Authority and private residential developments have taken place.

The principal industry is still sand quarrying with associated industries by way of roofing and floor tile manufacturers and manufacturers of concrete products. Light industrial establishments engaged in the manufacture of corsets, clothing and stationery employ a considerable number of female hands from Leighton Buzzard and surrounding districts. During this year it is pleasing to report that new industries have become established in the Grovebury Road industrial area and that extensions have also been made to several existing factories.

Sport and recreation are provided for by privately-owned grounds in the southern part of the town, with facilities for football, cricket, tennis and bowls. Parks and playing grounds owned by the Council also provide for sport and recreation. By reason of its non-polluted atmosphere and dry sandy soil Leighton Buzzard can be considered to have a healthy environment.

4.—VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	130	142	272
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	7	4	11
					—	—	—
			Total	...	137	146	283
					—	—	—

Crude Birth Rate: 24.1 per 1,000 home population.

Illegitimate births of total live births: 3.9%.

Comparable Birth Rate: 22.4 per 1,000 home population.

(The comparability factor for the District being 0.93).

As compared with:—

Average of last five years: 21.4 per 1,000 home population.

Rate for Bedfordshire: 19.9 per 1,000 home population.

Rate for England and Wales: 17.4 per 1,000 home population.

STILL BIRTHS

					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	4	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
			Total	...	1	4	5
					—	—	—

Still Birth Rate: 17.4 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

As compared with:—

Average of last five years: 16.6 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Rate for Bedfordshire: 18.7 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Rate for England and Wales: 18.7 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

DEATHS

					Male	Female	Total
Deaths in the District	...	...	...	...	24	30	54
Transferred into District	...	...	...	...	41	17	58
Transferred from District	...	...	...	...	3	9	12
			Total	...	62	38	100
					—	—	—

Crude Death Rate: 8.5 per 1,000 home population.

Comparable Death Rate: 9.9 per 1,000 home population.

(The comparability factor for the District being 1.16).

As compared with:—

Average of last five years: 9.6 per 1,000 home population.

Rate for Bedfordshire: 10.7 per 1,000 home population.

Rate for England and Wales: 12.0 per 1,000 home population.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	3	1	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
			Total	...	3	1	4
					—	—	—

Infant Mortality Rate: 14.1 per 1,000 related live births.

As compared with:—

Average of last five years: 24.2 per 1,000 related live births.

Rate for Bedfordshire: 18.7 per 1,000 related live births.

Rate for England and Wales: 21.4 per 1,000 related live births.

DEATHS CONNECTED WITH CHILDBIRTH

Maternal Mortality: Nil per 1,000 live births.

As compared with:—

Average of last five years: Nil per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Rate for Bedfordshire: 0.37 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Rate for England and Wales: 0.33 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

	Causes							M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	—
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	4
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	6
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	4
19	Hypertension, with heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
22	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
26	Ulcer stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
35	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
	All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	62	38

CAUSE OF DEATH IN INFANTS

Birth injury	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Prematurity	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

5.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA

Provided by the Oxford and North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Boards.

GENERAL HOSPITALS:

- The Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury, Bucks.
- Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Mandeville Road, Aylesbury, Bucks.
- Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Luton, Beds.
- St. Mary's Hospital, Grove Road, Luton, Beds.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE HOSPITALS:

- Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Spittlesea, Nr. Luton, Beds.
- Isolation Unit (Aylesbury Isolation Hospital), Mandeville Road, Aylesbury, Bucks.

CHEST CLINICS (for Pulmonary Tuberculosis):

- Tindal Hospital, Aylesbury.
- St. Mary's Hospital, Grove Road, Luton.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC: St. Mary's Hospital, Luton.

The Clinic is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Monday to Friday (Saturday, 9—12 noon) for both males and females.

Royal Bucks. Hospital: Tuesdays and Fridays, 2.15 p.m., for both males and females.

Provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY: Luton and Dunstable Hospital.

Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council.

AMBULANCE SERVICE:

The service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council, by arrangement with the Buckinghamshire County Council, has satisfactorily met demands. It covers the full twenty-four hours and is free of charge.

As well as employing ambulances, car transport is available for carrying patients, unable to travel by other means, to and from hospitals and clinics for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of an emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a medical practitioner or other authorised person. This should be to the nearest depot (Linslade).

The service also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious diseases.

Depots are situated as follows:—

- AMPTHILL, Clevedon, 14 Dunstable Street. Telephone: Ampthill 3333.
- BEDFORD, Bedford Road, Kempston. Telephone: Bedford 5335.
- BIGGLESWADE, Crab Lane. Telephone: Biggleswade 2295.

DUNSTABLE, High Street, North. Telephone: Dunstable 62761.

LINSLADE, 10 New Road (Bucks. C.C.).

Telephone: Leighton Buzzard 3332.

LUTON, Leicester Road. Telephone: Luton 52600 and 51871.

DOMICILIARY NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICE

Administered by the Southern Divisional Health Committee.

Miss J. M. Fairfax, "Bembridge," Grovebury Road.

Tel.: Leighton Buzzard 2146.

Miss A. J. Rumbelow, 43 Plum Tree Lane. Tel.: Leighton Buzzard 3063.

Mrs. W. Jones, 122 Richmond Road. Tel.: Leighton Buzzard 3638.

Miss W. Currie, 187 Vandyke Road. Tel.: Leighton Buzzard 2332.

(To retire (General Nursing) March, 1962).

Miss S. J. Rayner.

(Will take up residence at 14 Brooklands Drive on 24th July, 1962).

HEALTH VISITING SERVICE

There are two Health Visitors in the District:

Miss D. Northam, Woodbine Cottage, Egginton.

Miss E. B. Strong, 62 Golden Riddy, Linslade.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

Bassett Road, every Tuesday and Friday, 2 to 4 p.m.

Alternate Fridays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

Bassett Road, alternate Fridays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

MOTHERCRAFT CLINIC

Bassett Road, every Wednesday, 2.30 to 4 p.m.

SCHOOL CLINICS

Bassett Road

Dental	6 sessions weekly
Routine School Medical Inspections (where school facilities are poor)	Sessions as required
Chiropody Clinic	Sessions as required

The Health Centre,
Kingsway,
Dunstable

Child Guidance	2 sessions weekly
Dental	Sessions as required
Speech Therapy	2 sessions weekly

HOME HELP SERVICE

*Organiser: Miss K. Kelly, Health Centre, Kingsway, Dunstable, and
The Health Centre, Bassett Road, Leighton Buzzard.*

6.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

Source: The town is supplied with water from three boreholes sunk into the greensand to a depth of 250 feet approximately at the Waterworks, Stanbridge Road.

Distribution: The water, after treatment consisting of aeration, lime injection, sedimentation and filtration, is pumped by means of a booster pump of 25,000 gallons per hour capacity, to the reservoir in Shenley Hill Road, and thence to the town's distribution mains. The purity of the supply is controlled by routine sampling from the source and from various points throughout the distribution system. Responsibility for future water supplies will be taken over by the Mid-Beds Water Board as from 1st April, 1962.

The following is a typical result of a Chemical and Bacteriological examination.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS (in parts per million)

pH	...	...	7.9	Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Electric Conductivity	...	...	465	Free CO ₂	...	...	...	...	5
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	17		Total solids	...	...	...	...	320
Hardness total	...	...	255	Alkalinity as calcium carbonate					200
Carbonate	...	...	200	Nitrite nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Nil
Non-carbonate	...	...	55	Oxygen absorbed	...	...	...	...	0.40
Nitrate nitrogen	...	...	0.0	Metals—Iron	...	...	...	...	0.04
Ammoniacal	...	...	0.030	Fluoride	...	...	...	...	0.01
Albuminoid	...	...	0.013	Other metals	...	...	...	...	Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Probable number of Coliform bacilli per 100 m.l.: Nil.

Probable number of faecal coli per 100 m.l.: Nil.

Remarks: Highly satisfactory.

POPULATION SUPPLIED

		No. of Houses	Population
Direct to houses	...	3,584	11,621
From stand pipes	...	9	28

RAINFALL

The Station at which the rainfall is taken is Dunstable.

Month	Total Ins.	Greatest Rainfall in 24 hours.		No. of Days with .01 ins or more	No. of Days with .04 ins or more
		Ins.	Date		
January ...	2.74	0.45	28th	16	12
February ...	2.75	0.55	27th	16	13
March ...	0.21	0.04	29th 30th	6	2
April ...	3.25	0.46	26th	22	15
May ...	0.60	0.23	4th	8	4
June ...	1.49	1.05	12th	8	4
July ...	1.34	0.42	12th	10	8
August ...	1.96	0.47	4th	22	11
September	2.18	0.84	13th	12	9
October ...	2.52	0.41	19th	18	15
November	2.17	0.63	10th	12	10
December	4.07	0.89	1st	14	12

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Very few houses now remain on cesspool drainage and all the new housing estates have been able to connect to the main sewerage system. New development has not, of course, reduced the problem of overloading at the sewage disposal works. This is all the more disturbing owing to the very slow progress being made with the new joint sewage disposal works.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The public conveniences in the centre of the town cater especially for the needs of food handlers and other traders resorting to the weekly markets. Other public conveniences are situated in Oakley Green, Pages Park and Parsons Close recreation grounds.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Six notifications were received under Sections 3 and 10 of the Act, of proposals to instal furnace equipment.

Careful scrutiny has been paid to the data supplied to ensure that the height of the chimneys will be sufficient to prevent, as far as is practicable, smoke, grit, dust or gases from becoming prejudicial to health or a nuisance. No air pollution problem as such exists within the Urban District.

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

There is a swimming pool situated in the grounds of the Cedars School for the use of the pupils and members of the staff. Pupils from the Secondary Modern Schools are also allowed to use the pool. A continuous filtration and chlorination plant is used.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The rivers and streams in the Urban area are the Ousel and Clipstone Brook. The River Ousel adjoins the sewage works and receives the outfall effluent. Samples taken from the river have indicated the urgent need for the new sewage disposal works.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT

The new legislation relating to camping sites has had a marked effect in this area. One site only is licensed as a residential caravan site and a second is in process of winding down.

PEST CONTROL

Leighton Buzzard and Linslade combine for this purpose and employ a full-time Rodent Operator. Destruction is mainly of rats and mice but there are occasions when the public seek other assistance, particularly when troubled by wasps nesting in floor or roof spaces.

HOUSING

Two clearance areas comprising 25 houses in the Baker Street, Bassett Road areas have been confirmed after a public enquiry. Their subsequent redevelopment will permit the extension of existing housing estates and provide for the rehousing from other properties. Survey work is proceeding meanwhile and two areas in Bedford Street and Stanbridge Road have been recommended for compulsory acquisition. Housing action since 1955 has resulted in the worst of the unfit houses, 88 in total, being dealt with and those remaining do not present a slum clearance problem as such. Of equal importance now is the repair and improvement of the older houses to prevent them from falling into obsolescence. In this connection since the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, came into operation some 92 applications have been received for grants towards improvement works. With regard to new house building during the year 101 private and 38 council houses have been constructed.

7.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD MILK SUPPLY

Routine sampling continued throughout the year the results of which indicate that the milk distributed in this area is of a very good standard.

ICE CREAM

There are now 48 premises registered for the sale of ice cream and one establishment registered for the manufacture of ice cream. Routine sampling continued throughout the year with satisfactory results.

FOOD HYGIENE

There was again a considerable reduction in the amount of inspection work carried out to food premises this year due to other priorities but spot checks made from time to time indicated that occupiers were maintaining a reasonable standard.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is one private slaughterhouse in the town and this deals solely with the owners' requirements.

The following is the number of animals killed and inspected during 1961.

APPENDIX

Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed and inspected ...	385	21	658	643	Nil

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	43	—	20	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	11%	—	3%	2%

<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	0.9%

<i>Cysticercosis:</i>				
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—

Of the total of 1907 animals which passed through the slaughterhouse, the total weight of material requiring condemnation amounted to 7 cwts. approx. During the year 131 visits were made to the slaughterhouse for meat inspection purposes.

8—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

These columns depend for their accuracy on notifications received from general practitioners. Some of the diseases have now become so unimportant that there is nowhere near full notification so that the figures given can only be taken as an indication of the trend.

Reporting of serious diseases is still complete and in this connection it will be noticed that there have been no cases of poliomyelitis.

NOTIFICATIONS BY AGE GROUPS

Disease	0 - 5	5 - 15	Over 15	Total	Removed to Hospital
Measles ...	152 (5)	118 (29)	3 (—)	273 (25)	1 (—)
Scarlet Fever ...	4 (4)	7 (6)	— (—)	11 (10)	— (—)
Whooping Cough ...	3 (7)	2 (7)	— (1)	5 (15)	— (—)
Pneumonia ...	2 (—)	1 (1)	6 (8)	9 (9)	— (—)
Food Poisoning ...	— (4)	— (—)	— (—)	— (4)	— (1)
Ant. Poliomyelitis ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Dysentery ...	— (—)	— (1)	— (2)	— (3)	— (—)
Typhoid Fever ...	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	— (—)	— (—)	2 (—)	2 (—)	— (—)
Infective Hepatitis	— (—)	— (1)	— (—)	— (1)	— (1)

Figures for 1960 are given in brackets.

TUBERCULOSIS IN AGE GROUPS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5 years ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5—15 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—35 years ...	1*	1+2*	...	...	...	...	...	...
35—65 years ...	...	1*	...	...	1	...	...	...
Over 65 years ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	1*	1+3*	1	1	1	...	...	...

* Inward transfers

There has been a further decrease in tuberculosis. However, I view with considerable apprehension the overcrowding which seems to be synonymous with immigration.

Although it is known that the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis is higher in immigrants than in the home population, and especially high in immigrants from Pakistan, preventive measures, unfortunately, remain a pipe dream.

NUMBER ON REGISTER AT END OF YEAR

								M.	F.
Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	21
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4

DEATH RATES PER 100,000 OF THE POPULATION (Respiratory Tuberculosis)

This District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.5
Bedfordshire	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.1
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6.5

(The number of cases involved is so small that wide fluctuation of the rate is possible).

INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1915—1961

YEAR	NEW CASES		DEATHS	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1915—19	5.0	0.2	4.8	2.8
1950—54	9.2	2.8	1.0	0.2
1955	5	1	—	—
1960	4	1	1	—
1961	1	2	1	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47

This Section provides for the removal to hospital or Part III accommodation on a Court Order, of sick or old people who cannot look after themselves.

This Legislation was not used during the year.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Mass Miniature Radiography Unit did not visit the district during the year, but there has been a useful addition to the service. A mobile Unit visits the Health Centre once a week for half-an-hour and during this time patients sent by their doctors can quickly be X-rayed.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Immunisation and vaccination is the responsibility of the County Council through the Southern Health Division.

The relevant figures are integrated for the whole Division and are well up to the national average.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

PREMISES	Number on Register	NUMBER OF		Occupiers prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	9	4	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	64	9	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-worker's premises) ...	3	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	76	13	—	—

PARTICULARS	NUMBER OF DEFECTS			No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation :				
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	2	2

PART VIII OF THE ACT **OUTWORK** (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Section 110			Section 111			
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecutions (8)	M/c line No. (9)
Wearing { Making, etc. ... apparel { Cleaning & Washing	14	13	53	—	—	—	—	13
		14	—	—	—	—	—	14

Rush & Warwick
Printers
Leighton Buzzard